

REMARKS

Further consideration of the application is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks. For the Examiner's convenience and reference, Applicant's remarks are presented in the order in which the corresponding issues were raised in the Office Action.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 101

The Office Action rejected claims 7-12 under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter.

Regarding Claim 7

The Applicant has complied with the examiner's suggestion and amended claim 7 to indicate that the claimed computer program is stored on a *tangible* computer readable medium. The Applicant believes claim 7 is now in condition for allowance.

Regarding Claims 8-12

Claims 8-12 are dependent on claim 7. The Applicant believes the rejections of these claims have been overcome for at least the same reason as given for claim 7. The Applicant believes claims 8-12 are now in condition for allowance.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Office Action rejected claims 1-18 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over McKeown et al (U.S. Patent 6,473,730) in view of Ueda (U.S. Patent. 6,493,663).

Regarding Claim 1

Ueda is cited by the Office Action for its teaching of plural document processing, which the Office Action states McKeown does not disclose. Ueda discloses a method for creating a summary of a group of documents that includes analyzing the syntax of the sentences in the documents, generating a graph for each sentence describing the relational dependencies between words, scoring each graph, combining graphs with the same concept, and synthesizing summarizing sentences from graphs with higher scores. Col. 3, line 59 – col. 4, line 13. Several methods for scoring a graph are disclosed. Some methods for scoring simply count the number of elements (nouns and verbs) in a graph (or “tree”) while others include factors for weighing each element including: the importance of the element, the dependency of the element to other elements, and the

structure of the sentence. Col. 5, lines 56-60; Col. 7, lines 14-24; Col. 9, lines 1-6, 28-31; Col. 10, line 66 – col. 11, line 11-39. Some methods of calculating element (“word”) importance include the frequency the element is used in the documents multiplied by inverse document frequency. Col. 11, lines 7-11; col. 12, lines 56-57.

McKeown discloses a method for topical segmentation of a document that includes linking occurrences of similar terms, assigning weighted scores to paragraphs corresponding to the linked occurrences, where the weighting is based on the type, and position of each linked occurrence. Col. 2, lines 40-45. The weighted scores are then used, not to rank the paragraphs, but to define topical segment boundaries, which contain one or more paragraphs. Col. 7, lines 43-62. The segments are then ranked based on segment significance, which includes segment importance and segment coverage. Col. 8, lines 24-32. Segment importance is based on calculating for each term that appears in the segment, the number of times the term appears in the document multiplied by the number of segments it appears in. Col. 8, lines 32-67. Segment coverage is based on the number of links partially or fully contained within the segment in comparison with the other segments. Col. 9, lines 1-40.

In contrast to Ueda and McKeown, claim 1 as amended, claims in part:

counting the links for each paragraph, denoting the number of links as the significant score of that paragraph,

ranking the paragraphs by the significant score,

selecting paragraphs based on ranking;

These limitations are not disclosed by McKeown and Ueda as McKeown ranks and selects by segment, and Ueda by sentence, not by paragraph.

Since McKeown and Ueda do not disclose all limitations of claim 1, claim 1 cannot be rendered unpatentable by them for obviousness.

Regarding Claims 2-18

Claims 3, 9 and 15 have been canceled.

Claims 2, 3-6 are dependent on claim 1. The Applicant believes the rejections of these claims have been overcome for at least the same reason as given for claim 1. The Applicant believes claims 2, 3-6 are now in condition for allowance.

Claim 7 and 13 have been amended in a similar manner as claim 1. The Applicant believes they are allowable for at least the same reasons as given for claim 1.

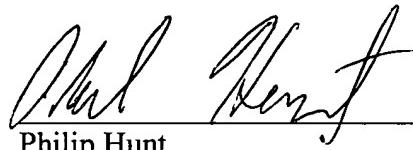
Claims 8, 10-12, are dependent on claim 7 and claims 14 16-18 are dependent on claim 13. The Applicant believes the rejections of these claims have been overcome for at least the same reason as given for claim 7 and 13. The Applicant believes claims 8, 10-12, 14, 16-18 are now in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite or assist in the allowance of the present application, the Examiner is invited to call Phil Hunt at (503) 439-6073. Please charge any shortages and credit any overcharges to our Deposit Account number 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,
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